

## Boating Safety Seven

- Wear your life jacket
- Take a boating safety class
- Know your boats limitations
- Carry all required safety gear
- Boat sober and be considerate
- Be aware of weather conditions
- Follow boating 'rules of the road'

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## Stop Aquatic HitchHikers

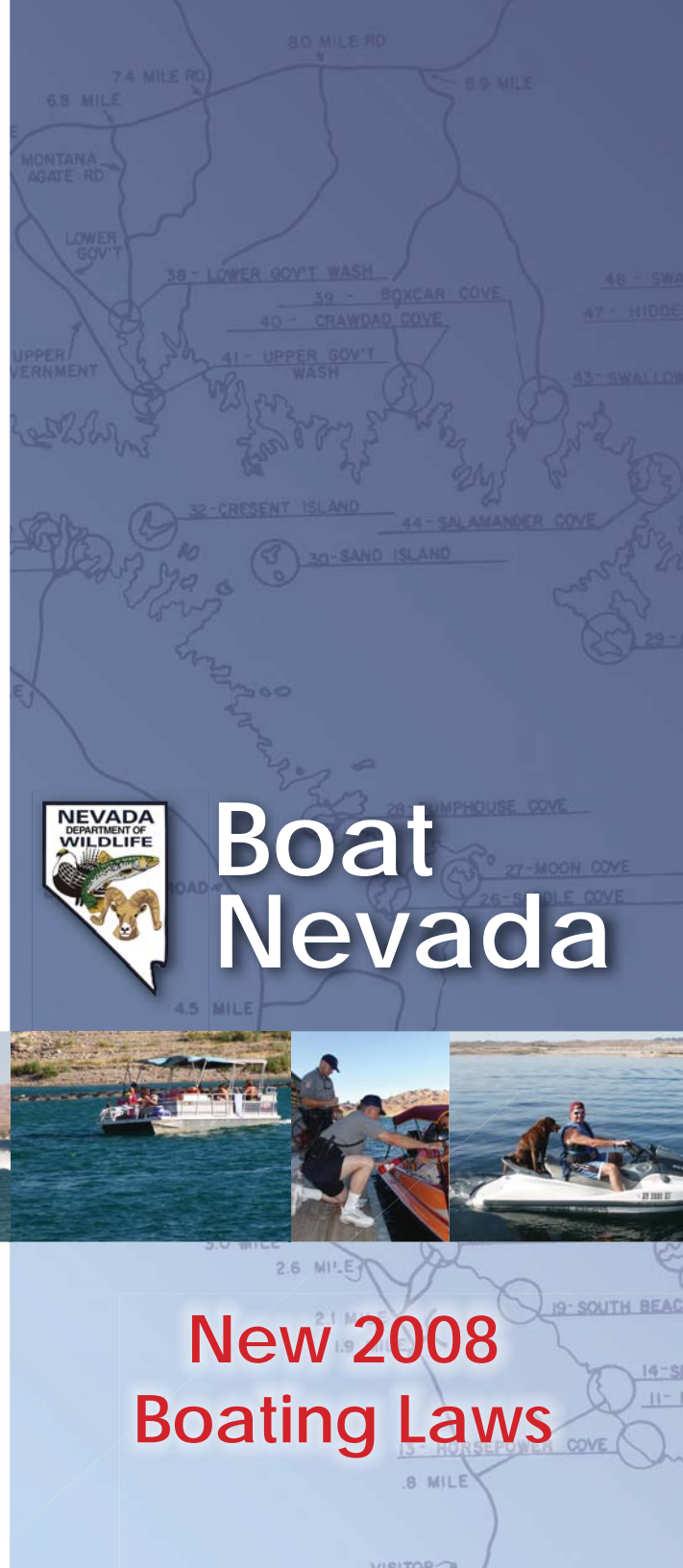
On January 6, 2007 live quagga mussels were discovered in Lake Mead at the Las Vegas Boat Harbor. Since that initial discovery, other infestations have been confirmed at Lake Mead Marina, Callville Bay Marina, Kingman Wash and at the Lake Mead Hatchery in the Boulder Basin. Outside of Lake Mead, additional colonies of quagga mussels have been identified at Katherine Landing on Lake Mohave and in locations on Lake Havasu.

Be part of the solution:

- Remove visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate all water before transporting.
- Clean, Drain and Dry your boat and equipment.
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water.



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# Boat Nevada

New 2008  
Boating Laws

# Boating Safety Update

**The Nevada Department of Wildlife wants to make boaters aware of two significant changes to boating safety regulations that took effect Oct. 1, 2007.**

## **Mandatory Lanyard Wear**

**The first change that will impact many boaters requires them to wear the engine cutoff lanyard, on equipped vessels, anytime the boat is moving faster than a no wake speed (5 miles per hour).**

You will not be required to wear the lanyard while performing docking maneuvers or trolling for fish as long as you are under a no wake speed. The engine cutoff lanyard, sometimes called a “kill switch” is a short piece of string or coiled material that connects to the boat operator to the boat console. Sometimes these devices are wireless transmitters. When the operator falls overboard or otherwise moves too far from the helm, the lanyard is pulled free and the boat engine is automatically shut off.

Wearing these lanyards has been standard practice for many years aboard personal water craft (PWCs) due to the probability of falling off those watercraft.

However, national and regional boating education and enforcement officers have seen many unnecessary injuries and deaths caused by boat operators accidentally falling overboard. Propeller injuries are a particular danger in falls overboard and many of these heinous injuries can be avoided by wearing the cutoff lanyard.



## **Life Jacket Minimum Age**

**The other change bumps up by one year the age for mandatory wear of life jackets for kids age 11 and under to kids 12 years and under.**

This is a guideline set by the National Transportation Safety Board, and many states already have this requirement.

Even though the law only requires boaters 12 and under to wear life jackets, game wardens would like to see everyone wearing a life jacket. In particular, all persons under the age of 16, anyone who is a weak swimmer, and anyone who has been drinking should all wear a life jacket at all times aboard a boat.

Aside from age requirements, other boaters are sometimes required to wear life jackets. Boaters must wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket while riding PWCs and while being towed behind a boat, such as when wake boarding and water skiing.

# Boat Essentials

## **Coast Guard Approved Life Jackets**

One correctly sized life jacket for each person on board - by law, children under 12 years old must wear it.

## **Type IV Personal Flotation Device**

Boats 16 feet or longer must carry one Type IV throwable device and a boat over 26 feet must have 30 feet of line attached.

## **Fire Extinguisher**

Any boat that uses gasoline must carry one, and it must be charged.

## **Muffling Device**

Every boat must be properly muffled.

## **Water Ski and Dive Flags**

If you water ski or dive you need to display the appropriate signal flag.

## **Lights**

Appropriate and functioning navigation lights are required at night, but they are also a good idea to have in an emergency that might keep you out after sunset.

## **Anchor**

Although, not legally required an anchor is essential for protecting yourself and your boat in an emergency.

## **Sound Producing Device**

All boats must carry a horn, whistle or other sound producing device.

## **Visual Distress Signals**

Though not required, signal flares and flags can attract attention if need arises.